

Tk 2.41 lakh smuggled goods seized

JOYPUKHAT, Feb 8: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth over Taka 2.41 lakh from a village in sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

A contingent of BDR of the 5 battalion conducted the raid in village Banipara and seized the contrabands following a tip-off.

The seized goods include shallow machine filter net, cycle rim, sarees and 30 kg cardamom.

The goods were deposited with the local customs and a case has been started with the local police.

Body to be formed for industrial uplift: Morshed

RAJSHAHI, Feb 8: M Morshed Khan, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister said here today that a high-powered committee would be formed with the representatives of chamber of commerce, private entrepreneurs, industrialists, businessmen and others for smooth development of industrial sector in the country, reports BSS.

He said this while addressing as chief guest a discussion on "Industry in Northern Region and Rajshahi" organised by the Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry at chamber ground here.

A T M Wazuliah, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mohammad Ali Sarkar, President of the Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Prof M Azharuddin, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Rajshahi University, Nurunnabi Chand, former president of the chamber, Mustaque Ahmed, Ziaul Huq, Hafizur Rahman and A K M Gaffar, Managing Director, Arab Bangladesh Bank spoke on the occasion. T Bora, Assistant High Commissioner of India, was also present.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Jan 8: Four dacoities were committed in a single night at village Kachur in Nandail thana recently.

According to reports, the armed dacoits numbering between 15 and 20 entered into the house of Abdul Gani and looted cash and kinds worth about Taka 40,000.

The dacoits then raided the neighbouring houses of Suraj Ali, Fate Ali and Abdul Hekim and looted valuables.

Bank cashier commits suicide

Sharafat Ali (37), Cashier of Sonali Bank, Katiadi Branch of the district committed suicide by hanging recently.

The cause behind the suicide could not be known. He hailed from village Tarati in Muktagacha thana of Mymensingh district.

Prices of fertilizers up

Due to price hike of chemical fertilizers in Kishoreganj, IRR-boro cultivation may be greatly hampered in the current season.

It is learnt that the local Agriculture Extension Department has fixed the cultivation target at 1.40 lakh hectares of land in 13 thanas of the district.

The price of different kinds of chemical fertilizer in local market in both rural and urban areas of the district has increased abnormally. Urea is being sold at Taka 250 to 265, TSP at Taka 370 to 400, MP at Taka 380 to 420 and DAP at Taka 400 to 410 per bag in different market of Kishoreganj.

Law, order situation deteriorates

Law and order situation has deteriorated causing concern among the peace loving people of sadar thana of the district.

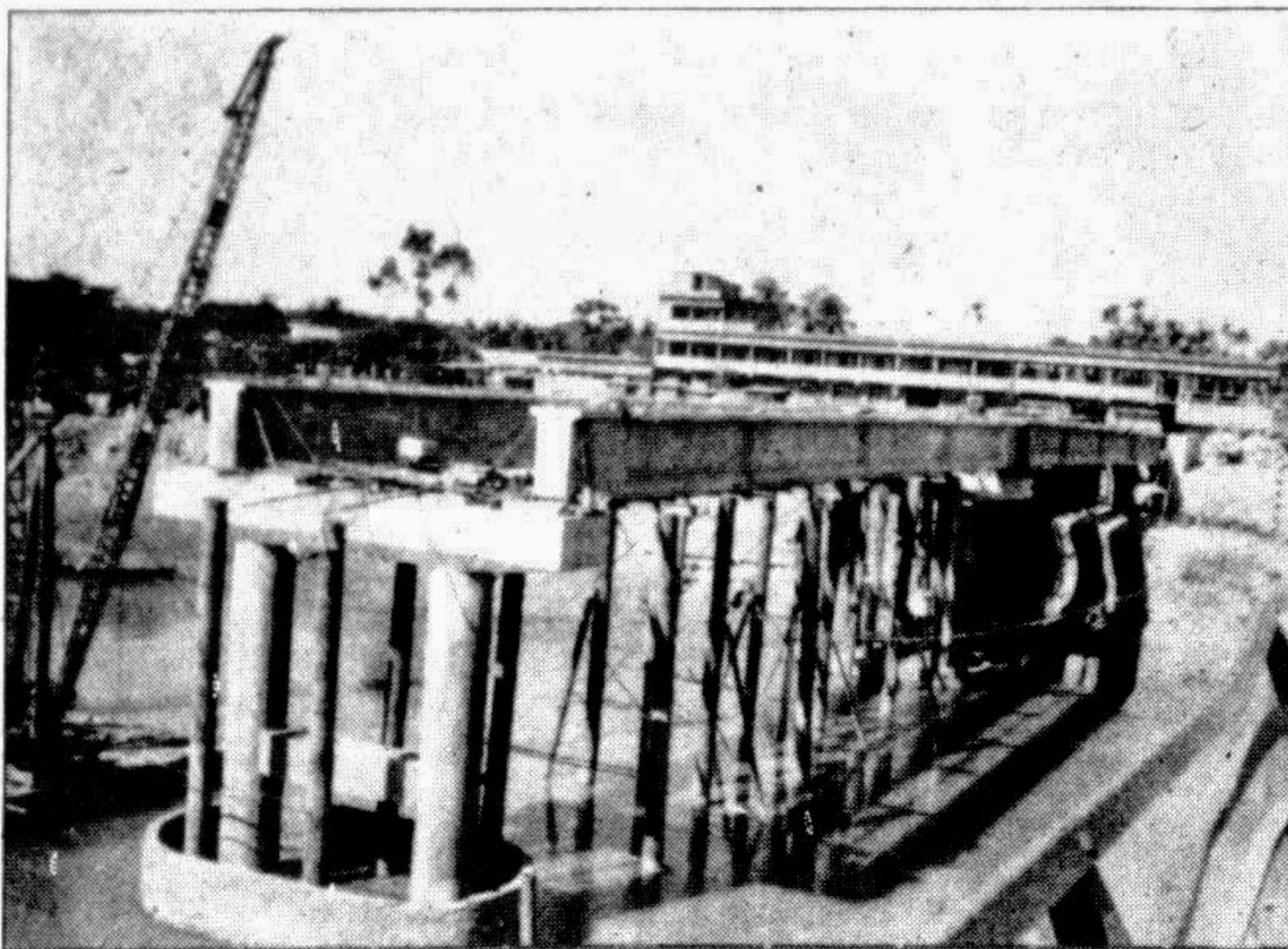
Highway robbery, dacoity, theft, murder, gambling, kidnapping, rape, cattle-lifting, hijacking, pick-pocketing, smuggling and mugging have become rampant in the district.

The miscreants always move about with unauthorised arms and lethal weapons and engage in anti-social and criminal activities.

12 dacoits arrested

Itna police led by Chapal Kanti Roy, Officer-in-Charge of Itna Police Station raided recently village Kaktangor, a den of criminals in the haor area of Kishoreganj and nabbed twelve dacoits with the help of villagers.

The arrested dacoits are: Nizam, Azman, Jabber, Amin, Altaf, Kutubuddin Ganda, Gail, Ramjan, Farid, Satter, Barju and Shoruj Ali.



MAULVIBAZAR: Construction work of the Monu bridge on Maulvibazar-Kulaura-Juri Road is on progress and it is expected to be completed by 1995. — Star photo

Ganges Kobadak Project Effect of Farakka Barrage starts earlier this year

KUSHTIA, Feb 8: The operation in the Ganges Kobadak Project, the biggest irrigation project in the country have been facing setbacks much ahead of time this year because of the unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water by India through construction of Farakka Barrage.

The Farakka issue has already been discussed in many forums including Zia Parishad where speakers blamed India for economic and environmental aggression on Bangladesh and demanded rising of Ganges water sharing issue in world forums. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia placed the issue in United Nations General Assembly recently.

On the other hand, local leaders through public meetings raised their voices to go for construction of Ganges Barrage Project which late President Ziaur Rahman initiated in order to overcome and counter the adverse effect of Farakka.

The work began in 1980-81 through laying of foundation at four kilometre downstream of Hardinge Bridge near Talbaria at a cost of Taka 1131 crores.

The scheme was taken up in the backdrop of the unilateral withdrawal of water of the river Ganges in the upper reaches by India through Farakka Barrage. The scheme aimed at removal of water

scarcity for irrigation, flood control and improvement of irrigation in 25 south western districts of the country.

The districts are Pabna, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Natore, Nawabgonj, Naogaon, Sirajgonj, Meherpur, Narail, Chuadanga, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Bhola, Pirojpur, Barisal, Jhalokati, Sariapur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Madaripur.

In the year 1980-81, Project Implementation Cell was formed under the auspices of Water Development Board and later in the year 1984 a separate office was established under the name of Ganges Barrage Project for its implementation.

But the progress of work on the project is negligible. Till now about four crore taka have been placed and only a portion of survey work was taken up. To complete the first phase of the work, an amount of Taka six crore is required, according to informed sources.

It is surprising to note that nothing substantial progress is found so far and no fund has been allocated although it has become life and death question for the people of this country and as such its future remain uncertain with small water in river Ganges and as a result process of desertification has started.

Help maintain peace for achieving progress

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), Feb 8: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain has urged the people to help maintain peace and discipline for achieving progress and prosperity of the country, reports UNB.

If peace and discipline could not be maintained, the pace of development and the process of democracy in the country would be disrupted, he cautioned while addressing a cross section of people at Karikandi here on Friday.

The Minister referred to the holding of free, fair and impartial elections in four city corporations and said the BNP government always believed in

the mandate of the people who are the only source of power.

The BNP government's belief in democracy and democratic values has already been proved through the elections so far held under this government, he added.

Dr Mosharraf said: "We do not believe in so-called vote rigging or bluff with the people. But we always believe in the 'politics of development and people's welfare'."

He listed a number of development programmes initiated by the government and urged the people, in spite of their political differences, to actively participate in the programmes for their proper implementation.

Law, order situation not yet improved

PABNA, Feb 8: Law and order situation in nine thanas of the district that deteriorated during last year is yet to be improved, local people said, reports UNB.

According to police records, at least 1230 crimes were committed in the district in 1993, while the number of crimes in the previous year was 1090.

Of the total crimes, 36 murder cases including five political ones were recorded, 12 dacoities, 16 snatching, 155 theft, 131 clashes and 880 other crimes were committed in the district in last year.

Political leaders alleged that adequate measures were not taken to nab the criminals and most of the criminals were found moving freely.

Many fire arms have been seized during the period but only two people were arrested in this connection, they said.

Smuggling, on the other hand, was going on freely

through different border routes of the district. Ishurdi, Nagarbari Ghat and Pabna Bazar are the main markets of smuggled goods in the district, they said.

Police officials of the district, however, denied the allegation and said they had tried their best to curb the criminal activities in the district in spite of its limitations and claimed that law and order situation has improved to a great extent.

Another report says: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has implemented four projects, including development of Tebunia hat at sadar thana costing about Taka 23 lakh.

According to official sources, the other projects are construction of three box culverts at different growth centres.

Meanwhile, the contractors with the collaboration of concerned officials had used low quality construction materials

One to suffer life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Feb 8: Salehuddin Mahmud, district and Sessions Judge Habiganj sentenced one person to life-term and also fined Taka 5000 in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for another two years on charge of murder.

The learned judge acquitted 14 other accused persons from the charge brought against them in the same case.

The convicted person Masud Mia hails from village Jathra Bara Bari under Habiganj sadar thana.

The judge delivered the aforesaid judgement recently. The prosecution story in brief was that one Oliur Rahman of village Jathra Bara Bari was injured by his rival group in a clash over a petty matter on October 12, 1992 and he died on way to hospital.

A case was registered with Habiganj thana in this connection.

The police after investigation submitted chargesheet against 16 persons.

The learned judge after examining 17 witnesses and evidences and found principal accused Masud Mia guilty and passed the aforesaid judgement.

One accused person was died during trial.

Another report says: Three persons including two women were killed and seven others injured in separate incidents in the district recently.

Alsuma Bibi (50) of village Pallarkandi and Haque Mia (8) of village Mardapur under Baniyachang thana were killed when a speeding engine boat

capsized near village Dulalpur on January 14. Witnesses said, the Pallarkandi bound engine boat from Habiganj while reached near village Dulalpur, the driver lost control of the boat and the tragic incident occurred.

One Khodeza Bibi (40) of village Jounai under Baniyachang thana was killed when she was ran over by a speeding Shaistaganj bound microbus (Dhaka-02-1753) from Chunarughat.

The accident occurred near Chunarughat telephone exchange on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway on January 14.

Chunarughat police seized the microbus but the driver managed to escape. A case was started with Chunarughat police in this connection.

16 injured in groups clash

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 8: About 16 people were injured, three of them seriously in a clash between two rival groups in Saratikandi village of sadar thana Sunday, reports UNB.

The seriously injured were admitted into Sirajganj General Hospital. Others were released after given first aid.

Police said, the clash ensued between the supporters of Abdur Razzak and Mahiruddin groups as a sequel to an incident of sharing water from a shallow tubewell.

It has been alleged that Mahiruddin and his supporters attacked Abdur Razzak Khondaker while he was working in his field Sunday morning.

Highest allocation for education sector

BARISAL, Feb 8: President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Monday said that the government had made the highest allocation for the education sector to bring about a qualitative change in the country's education system, reports UNB.

"We can build a prosperous nation by proper utilisation of the allocated fund," Biswas said while addressing a get-together of the 12th batch of students of Barisal Cadet College here Monday.

Listing the government steps in this sector, he said primary education has been made compulsory, education upto class eight made free for girls in the rural areas and

mass education and Food for Education Programme have been introduced.

"Ours is a developing country. People here are not affluent. We should produce educated and skilled manpower," he said.

Principal of Barisal Cadet College TAK Tewri presided over the function which was addressed by Major General Arin Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the governing bodies of cadet colleges and Adjutant General of Bangladesh Army, and Kazi Munirul Hasan, President of Barisal Ex-Cadets Association.

Later, the President inaugurated the first automatic traffic signal system in the town.

District roundup

NARAYANGANJ

Scouts urged to help build nation

Feb 8: Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary M Faizur Razzak Sunday called upon the scouts to actively participate in nation building activities to help achieve the optimum development and progress, says BSS.

Addressing as chief guest at a scout rally at Chittaranjan Cotton Mills premises in Narayanganj, the energy secretary said, scout movement is a honest and noble drive to serve the humanity. He hoped the members of the scout would be able to uphold and enhance the ideal of scout movement through their sincere and honest works.

To serve the distressed humanity is the best way to serve the nation," Razzak said adding that "scouts are the best illustrious sons of the soil who sacrifices themselves for the cause of humanity. We should encourage and extend all possible help to those philanthropists who come forward with honest and sincere initiatives.

The secretary, later, witnessed a camp firing ceremony.

PATUAKHALI

Fake currency notes recovered

Feb 8: Five counterfeit currency notes of one hundred Taka denomination each were recovered from village South Muradia under Patuakhali sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

Another recovery of twenty two counterfeit currency notes of the same denomination was made from Boga Bazar under Bauphal thana three days back. Both the incidents caused police cases. Person involved with the incident in South Muradia village has been sent to court while the other with Boga Bazar incident is yet to be rounded up.

One milkman Nikhil Dutta of village South Muradia received Taka five hundred in one hundred Taka notes as consideration of his land from one Abdur Razzak of the same village. The money was later proved to be in counterfeit notes. He lodged a case with Dumki thana. Police arrested the person and sent him to court.

In the second incident Azahar Mian of village Kuripaika was given Taka two thousand and two hundred in one hundred Taka currency notes by one Amir Hossain of village Dumki as price of pulses. The currency notes were found to be fake. Azahar Mian lodged a case with Bauphal police. Amir Hossain is absconding.

FARIDPUR

Sugar output target fails

FARIDPUR, Feb 8: Faridpur Sugar Mills produced 9,110 metric tons of sugar by crushing 1,18,416 metric tons of sugarcane during the current crushing season, official sources said Friday, reports UNB.

The mills started its crushing season on October 15, 1993 with a target of 14,500 mts of sugar by crushing 1,70,595 mts of sugarcane.

Meanwhile, 7,465 mts of sugar, valued at Taka 19,40,90,000 was sold to the traders on February 3, the source added.

General Manager of the mills said, the mills crushed 1220 mts of sugarcane per day as against the crushing capacity of 1000 mts and this was possible with the cooperation of the concerned officials, workers and farmers of the mills.

He said Taka 7,61,73,000 was paid to the farmers as sugarcane price purchased through 37 purchasing centres of the mills in Gopalganj, Rajbari, Magura and Faridpur districts.

He also said Taka 3.33 crore outstanding loan was recovered as against Taka 3.38 crore from the sugarcane growers adding the loan recovery stood at 98.58 per cent.

BARISAL

234 killings committed in 1993

Feb 8: A total of 234 killings were committed in six southern districts under Barisal division during last year till December 31 last, a police source said, reports BSS.

The source said, 117 dacoities, 306 thefts, 113 abductions, 275 robberies, 75 hi-jackings, and 245 various types of crimes were committed in these districts during the period.

About 70 killings were committed in Barisal district in this period, the source added.

Another report says: The election of Barisal Bar Council was held on Saturday last. A Gaffar Khan and Shakhawat Hossain were elected president and secretary respectively of the bar for 1994.

Kanchan Ali Howlader and G M Farrok were elected vice-presidents. Selim Reza Chowdhury and Jashim Uddin Ahmed were elected joint-secretaries, and Kobbat Hossain Badal, Fazlul Huq Faet, ABM Faquddin, Shyam Lal Achary and Parvin, Akhtar Baby were elected members of the bar.

MUNSHIGANJ

Ex-students of J C Bose School re-unite

Feb 8: The reunion of ex-students of Rari Khal Sir J C Bose Institution under Srinagar thana was held here Friday, reports BSS.

Mahe Alam, Secretary, Rural Division and Cooperatives, Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives was the chief guest while Prof Humayun Azad was special guest at the function.

Presided over by former general manager of Sonali Bank, Mahmudul Huq, the function was addressed by Dr MM Khan, journalist Nurul Huda, Chairman of School Managing Committee Meer Muzammel Ali, Solaiman Khan and school head master M A Khaleque.

Mahe Alam announced personal donation of Taka 5,000 for the school library.

MADARIPUR

Navigation affected due to emergence of char, shoals

Feb 8: New chars and shoals have emerged in the river Arial Khan, Kumar, Madhumoti, Kirtinasha and Padma adversely affecting navigability, says a UNB report.

Witnesses said the river flowing over the districts of Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj has been blocked by the formation of new chars and massive siltation.

Dry season accentuates the problem of unhindered movement of riverine transport bringing the local trade and commerce almost to a standstill.

Mentionable that, most of the local products are being carried through the river routes of these districts to different areas of the country as road communications are costly.

Local leaders said if immediate measures are not taken to dredge the river beds, riverine transports would come to a stalemate within a short period of time.

RAJSHAHI

Tk 5.5cr road development programme

Feb 8: The Roads and Highways Department has undertaken a road development programme at a cost of about Taka five and a half crore in Rajshahi district under Annual Development Programme during the current fiscal year, an official handout said Monday, reports BSS.

Under the programme, 16 kilometre thana connecting roads are being constructed, while 17 kilometres similar roads and 19 kilometres highways are being reconstructed and repaired.

Besides, two and a half kilometres highways will be widened under the programme.

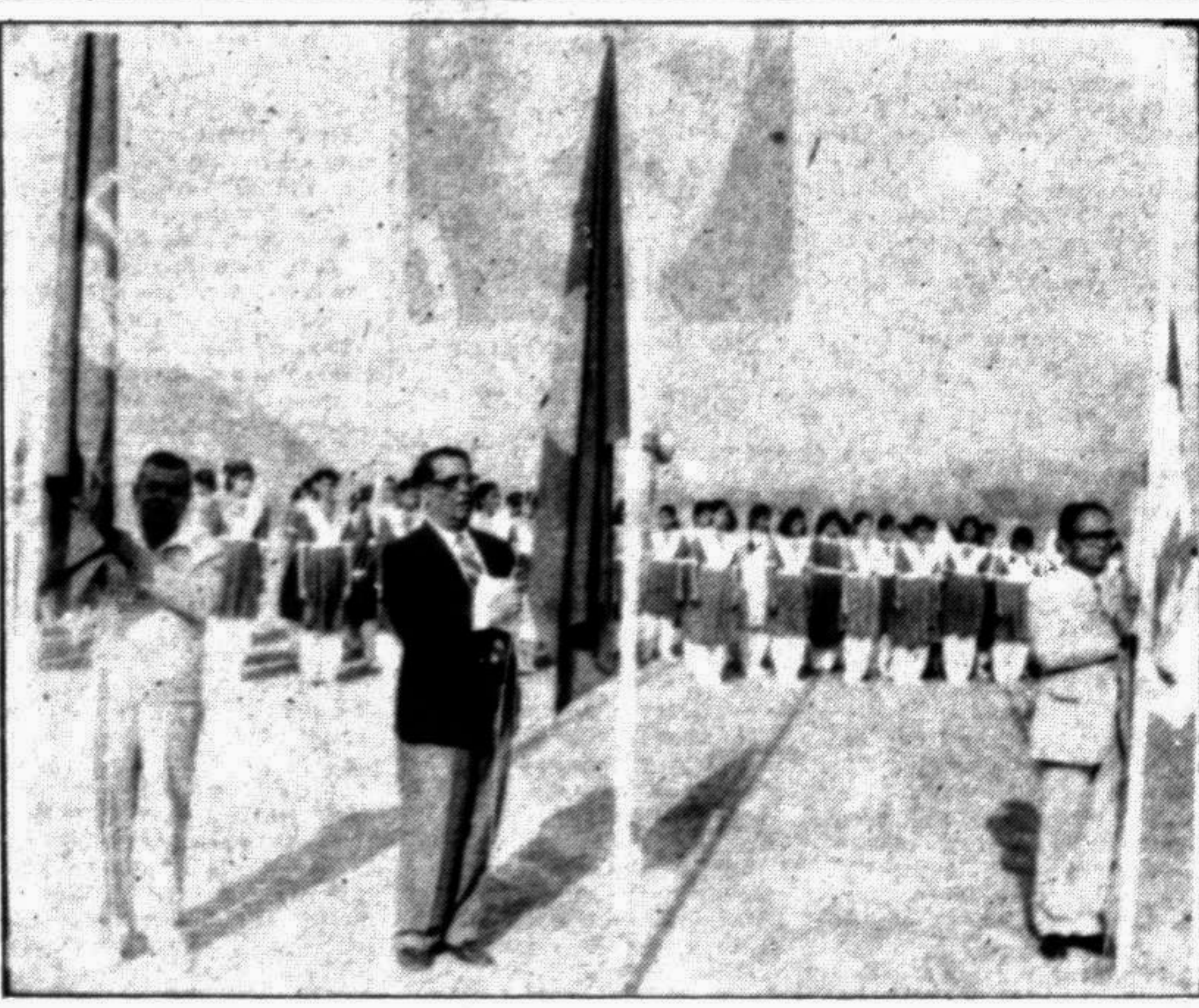
Carpeting work on Rajshahi greater road and Puthia-Bagnara road is progressing.

The work is expected to be completed by June next. The results of B Sc and B Com examinations-1992 held under Rajshahi University was announced Monday, reports UNB.

The pass percentage in B Sc is 51.49 and in B Com 43.40, official sources said.

A total of 1,489 candidates out of 2,892 came out successful in the B Sc examinations and 1,976 students out of 4,564 in B Com examinations.

Only three students secured first class in the B Sc examinations while 404 got second class and 1,082 third class. The candidates who secured first class are Kalachand Singh of Khulna City College, Murshed Akhter and Munmun Sultana of Bogra, Afazul Haq of Government College.



Prof R Chowdhury, VC, Chittagong University hosting National Flag on the occasion of annual sports of Chittagong University College held recently. — CU photo

Pourashava takes up 7 uplift schemes

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 8: Bhairab Pourashava authority has taken up seven development schemes at an estimated cost of Taka 15,67,300.

The schemes are: development of poura town hall with an allocation of Taka 2,71,000; construction of portico of the town hall at Taka 2,24,000; development of Baradia Road from bus stand to railway bridge road starting from railway bridge to College Road.

Baradia Road construction of boundary wall of poura land re-construction of Kalipur Road, construction of drains in the Bhairab bazar and re-construction of drains beside the K B High School.

Another report says: A massive scheme was taken up to bring over 16,200 hectares of land under winter vegetables cultivation in five districts of Mymensingh Agriculture Zone during the current rabi seasons, official sources here said.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the

total land, 4,700 hectares were brought under winter vegetables farming in Mymensingh, 2,700 hectares in Jamalpur, 3200 hectares in Sherpur, 2500 hectares in Netrakona and 3,100 hectares in Kishoreganj districts.

About 3,07,800 metric tons of winter vegetables expected to be produced during the season in these districts.

For the success of the programme, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) supply high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs to the growers of these district, the source said.

Another report adds: The rush of rickshaws at Bhairab and Ashuganj ferryghats on Dhaka-Sylhet highway poses a serious problem daily in the movement of passengers and vehicles.

Hundreds of passenger buses, trucks, jeeps and cars are transported from one side to another of the ferryghats around the clock.